

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

10 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising:

a Norovirus or Sapovirus specimen,

an alkaline buffer having a pH of 9.0 to 10.0; and

~~an~~ at least one anti-Norovirus antibody or ~~an~~ at least one anti-Sapovirus antibody

which may be immobilized on a solid support and/or labeled;

wherein said composition has a pH ranging from 9.0 to 10.0.

11 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 10, wherein said alkaline buffer is Tris buffer.

12 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 10, wherein said alkaline buffer is Good's buffer.

13 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 10, wherein said alkaline buffer is borate buffer or carbonate buffer.

14 (Currently Amended): The composition of claim 10, wherein the at least one ~~further comprising an~~ anti-Norovirus antibody comprises an immobilized anti-Norovirus antibody and an anti-Norovirus antibody that is labeled.

15 (Currently Amended): The composition of claim 10, wherein the at least one further comprising an anti-Sapovirus antibody comprises an immobilized anti-Sapovirus antibody and an anti-Sapovirus antibody that is labeled.

16 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 10 further comprising an animal globulin.

17 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 10 further comprising a surfactant.

18 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 10 further comprising a water-soluble polymer.

19 (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 10 that has a salt concentration ranging from 1 to 8% by mass.

20 (Currently Amended): A method for detecting a Norovirus in a specimen comprising:

contacting a specimen to be tested for the presence of Norovirus with an immobilized anti-Norovirus antibody in the composition of claim 10 at a pH of 9 to 10, and
detecting binding between the specimen and the anti-Norovirus antibody;
wherein binding is indicative of the presence of Norovirus in the specimen.

21 (Previously Presented): A method of claim 20, wherein the specimen is simultaneously reacted at a pH of 9 to 10 with the immobilized anti-Norovirus antibody and with a labeled anti-Norovirus antibody.

22 (Currently Amended): A method for detecting a Sapovirus in a specimen comprising:

contacting a specimen to be tested for the presence of Sapovirus with an immobilized ~~anti-Norovirus~~ anti-Sapovirus antibody in the composition of claim 10 at a pH of 9 to 10, and detecting binding between the specimen and the anti-Sapovirus antibody;
wherein binding is indicative of the presence of Sapovirus in the specimen.

23 (Previously Presented): A method of claim 22, wherein the specimen is simultaneously reacted with the immobilized anti-Sapovirus antibody and with a labeled anti-Sapovirus antibody at a pH ranging from 9 to 10.

24 (New): The composition of claim 10, further comprising an animal globulin in an amount ranging from 0.01 to 1.0 mg/mL.

25 (New): The composition of claim 24, wherein the animal globulin is serum albumin.

26 (New): The composition of claim 10, further comprising a non-ionic or amphoteric surfactant in amount ranging from 0.01 to 5.0% by mass.

27 (New): The composition of claim 26, wherein said non-ionic or amphoteric surfactant is

polyethylene glycol alkyl phenyl ether in an amount ranging from 0.5% to 5% by mass,

polyoxyethylene sorbitan mono-fatty acid esters in an amount ranging from 0.01% to 0.1% by mass, or

sulfobetain amphoteric surfactant in an amount ranging from 0.05 to 2.0% by mass.

28 (New): The composition of claim 10, further comprising a water soluble polymer in amount ranging from 0.1 to 8.0% by mass.

29 (New): The composition of claim 28, wherein the water soluble polymer is polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP), dextran sulfate, polyethylene glycol, or polyvinyl alcohol.

30 (New): The composition of claim 10, further comprising an alkaline metal salt or an alkaline earth metal salt in a concentration ranging from 1% to 8% by mass.